

AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION RANK — PARTICIPATION

87. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre's figures revealed in December 2022 that Australian tertiary admission rank—ATAR—participation rates in Western Australia had hit 33.7 per cent. One year on, ATAR participation had fallen to 28.08 per cent, the lowest in Australia. What are the Minister for Education and his director general doing to turn these devastating statistics around?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

I am glad that the member asked me that question, because I will tell him what we have been doing. When I raised ATAR participation when I came into the position of Minister for Education, I said that this was something that we were concerned about. We instigated a post-secondary system review, which has concluded. This will not be about just ATAR; it will be greater than that. I look forward to receiving the report in three or four weeks, and I am sure it will have many suggestions and recommendations about how we should be tackling this issue.

I should say that ATAR is only part of the situation. Not everyone needs to do ATAR; not everyone should do ATAR. My concern was that those who should be doing it are being discouraged from doing it. That is my concern. I am very keen to move forward. I look forward to receiving the report. The member will, of course, get the chance to read it in due course—if he is mindful of reading it, because I know that he does not like to do a lot of research, but I am sure he might read this report.